G-8 Summit

1678. SHRI PENUMALU MADHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the discussions held in the last G-8 conference and reactions of G-8 countries thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Discussions were held on global energy security, education and the fight against infectious diseases, which were the main themes of the Summit. In addition, views were also exchanged on international terrorism, other challanges to global security, globalization and world trade. The G-8 expressed a willingness to work in partnership with India and other major developing countries. The G-8 and outreach countries participating in the summit also adopted a Statement condemning the terrorist attacks in India on 11 July 2006.

Exploitation by passport officers

†1679. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in collusion with passport officers, the touts vitiate the system and exploit people in the passport offices;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received by passport offices during the last three years, passport-wise, year-wise; and

(c) the number of persons found guilty on the basis of such complaints alongwith the punishment given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. Government has been continually keeping a watch on the activities of touts in the Passport Offices throughout the country so as not to allow them to vitiate the system and exploit passport applicants. However, there have been some instances when touts tried to obtain passports in collusion with few officials in the Passport Offices.

(b) Details of such complaints are as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.